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GUARDIANSHIP & ADVOCACY COMMISSION



"Because we care."

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

MAR 19 1991

An executive state agency
created to safeguard the rights
of disabled persons through:

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

- OFFICE OF STATE GUARDIAN
- LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE
- HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY

*"protecting Illinois' disabled citizens
who cannot protect themselves"*



Gary E. Miller
Director

OFFICE OF STATE GUARDIAN

A Substitute Decision Maker

"protecting disabled persons who cannot protect themselves . . ."

The Office of State Guardian (OSG) will assume guardianship of the disabled adult, if appointed, when alternatives to guardianship have been exhausted; the appointment of a guardian is necessary; and family or friends are incapable or unwilling to serve as guardian.

The purpose of adult guardianship is to provide substitute decision making for medical treatment, medication, residential placement, money management and direct care planning.

There are nearly 5,000 disabled people who are wards of the Office of State Guardian. They have a wide range of disabilities. They may be chronically mentally ill, developmentally disabled, aged disabled or profoundly ill.

In addition, the OSG manages approximately \$1.5 million of its wards' assets, ensuring appropriate expenditures and investments of their funds.

The expertise of the Office of State Guardian allows it to monitor and advocate for appropriate medical and habilitative services unique to each disability and each client.

Many wards live in state operated facilities for the mentally ill or developmentally disabled; others live in nursing homes or other community settings throughout the State. Safeguarding their welfare is a challenging and painstaking process.

LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE

The “Law Firm” For The Disabled

“securing for the disabled their constitutional and statutory legal rights . . .”

The Legal Advocacy Service (LAS) was created so that eligible persons, who are mentally ill, developmentally disabled, physically handicapped or the aged disabled, could obtain representation to enforce their rights under state, federal or local laws.

Legal Advocacy Service, through its attorneys and advocates, provides representation to disabled individuals in a variety of settings: nursing homes, mental health facilities, residential facilities and the community. The LAS staff represents eligible persons with legal problems that encompass mental health facilities, treatment, special education, social security disability, vocational rehabilitation, guardianship, confidentiality and other matters which affect the disabled.

Many LAS clients cannot afford to hire private counsel to represent them. Few lawyers, in the private sector in Illinois, practice mental health or disability law.

The Legal Advocacy Service provides legal assistance to thousands of disabled Illinois residents each year. This assistance takes the form of legal advice, counseling and legal representation in both court hearings and administrative proceedings.

HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY

Volunteers in Action: Citizens Helping Citizens

"investigating alleged rights violations against the disabled . . ."

The Human Rights Authority (HRA) of the Commission is actually nine separate authorities. Each of these regional authorities has nine volunteer members appointed by the Commissioners.

They investigate complaints of alleged violations against disability laws. The Authority offers a free forum that permits negotiation with providers and avoids the confrontation of a court room. Issues that are not amenable to the legal process can also be addressed.

The HRA is not an enforcement agent. The Authority attempts to ensure the rights of the disabled through fact finding investigations of complaints which can be made by anyone. Many of the investigations focus on systemic problems; those affecting more than one recipient.

Each year the Authority's recommendations, which are adopted by service providers, affect thousands of recipients.



"Because we care."

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(312) 793-5937 TDD+Voice

421 East Capitol Avenue
Suite 205
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 785-1540

REGIONAL OFFICES

(Service Locations)

ROCKFORD REGIONAL OFFICE

Singer MHC - Hawthorn Hall
4402 North Main (Box 62)
Rockford, Illinois 61105
(815) 987-7657

ELGIN REGIONAL OFFICE

1972 Larkin Avenue
Elgin, Illinois 60123
(312) 931-2044

PEORIA REGIONAL OFFICE

416 St. Mark Court, Suite 403
Peoria, Illinois 61603
(309) 671-3350

SPRINGFIELD REGIONAL OFFICE

421 East Capitol Avenue
Second Floor
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(217) 785-0645

CHICAGO REGIONAL OFFICE

1735 West Taylor
Chicago, Illinois 60612
(312) 996-1650

CHAMPAIGN REGIONAL OFFICE

34 East Green Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 333-4999

SOUTH SUBURBAN REGIONAL OFFICE

1010 Dixie Highway
Chicago Heights, Illinois 60411
(312) 709-3070

METRO EAST REGIONAL OFFICE

10251 Lincoln Trail
Concord Plaza
Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208
(618) 397-0802

CARBONDALE REGIONAL OFFICE

611 East College
Carbondale, Illinois 62901
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